

## Message Text

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14  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /069 W  
----- 086663

R 021412Z SEP 76  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2890  
INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: PINT ELAB SWEL IS  
SUBJ: KNESSET REBUFFS MINISTER OF HEALTH

1. A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE KNESSET CALLED AUGUST 30 TO CONSIDER A THREATENED NATION WIDE NURSES STRIKE HANDED HEALTH MINISTER VICTOR SHEMTOV (MAPAM) AN EMBARRASSING REBUFF. FOLLOWING THE REFERRAL TO COMMITTEE OF A MILD RESOLUTION INTRODUCED BY A FELLOW MAPAM MK, A VOTE WAS DEMANDED ON A CALL ALSO TO REFER TO COMMITTEE A MUCH HARSHER LIKUD RESOLUTION WHICH WAS STRONGLY CRITICAL OF SHEMTOV. THE VOTE WAS 44 TO 12 IN FAVOR OF REFERRAL WITH MOST OF THE LABOR PARTY AS WELL AS THE NRP JOINING THE LIKUD AGAINST MAPAM, TWO LABOR MKS, AND THE SMALL EXTREME LEFTIST PARTIES.

2. COMMENT: SINCE IT HAD ALREADY BEEN AGREED TO SEND THE Milder RESOLUTION TO COMMITTEE, DROPPING THE LIKUD MOTION RATHER THAN REFERRING IT ALSO TO COMMITTEE WOULD HAVE BEEN THE EXPECTED PROCEDURE OF A PARLIAMENT WITH A GOVERNMENT MAJORITY. THE SPECTACLE OF THE BULK OF THE LABOR PARTY DESERTING A GOVERNMENT MINISTER IS, THEREFORE, ALL THE MORE STRIKING. OBJECTIVE OBSERVERS, IN FACT, RATE SHEMTOV AS AN EFFECTIVE HEALTH MINISTER WHO HAS WORKED HARD TO AVERT THE THREATENED STRIKE. (THE THREAT DISSOLVED ON SEPT 1 WHEN THE CABINET AGREED TO  
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NEGOTIATE WITH THE NURSES. SEE SEPTTEL.) HOWEVER, ACCORDING

TO KNOWLEDGEABLE OBSERVERS, MANY LABORITES ARE ANNOYED AT SHEMTOV FOR REPEATEDLY RAISING THE QUESTION OF QADOUM, A SOURCE OF EMBARRASSMENT TO THE LABOR PARTY. THE LABOR PARTY'S RAP ON SHEMTOV'S KNUCKLES PROBABLY ALSO REFLECTS THE UNHAPPINESS OF CERTAIN CIRCLES IN THE PARTY AND HISTADRUT WITH THE HEALTH MINISTRY'S NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE BILL. WITH MAPAM'S CONTINUED PARTICIPATION IN THE LABOR ALIGNMENT FOR THE 1977 ELECTION STILL UP IN THE AIR, THIS INCIDENT MAY WELL INTENSIFY THE DISCONTENT OF THOSE MAPAMNICKS WHO WANT TO DISSOLVE THE PARTNERSHIP.  
TOON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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